

WI AQUAPONICS MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT GROUP

January 27, 2015

WISLINE Call Facilitator – WDNR Chris Lilek
Meeting Minutes

Participants: Chris Lilek – DNR Sustainable Business Section, Beth Gehred - Slow Money Wisconsin, Erin D. Livesey – Dartmouth College, Rochelle Sandrin - Milwaukee Public Schools, Jesse Blom – Sweet Water Foundation, Kim Wall – Ma Baensch, Mike Bandli - DATCP, Chris Hartleb – UW Stevens Point, Laura Tiu - Ohio Aquaculture Extension Specialist, Laurel Sukup – DNR Sustainable Business Section, Lori Tate – DNR Fisheries, Jeremiah Robinson – Frosty Fish, Greg Lawless - Food System Development Program at UW Extension, James Godzil - Sweet Water Foundation

The purpose of this call was to continue our discussion how Federal, State and County regulatory, funding & technical assistance staff can support aquaponic farming in Wisconsin.

Future purpose: We want to be able to offer local aquaponics contacts an easy to use method of getting Federal, State & County regulatory, funding and technical assistance in the future. To further this purpose we have scheduled on-going conference calls to update ourselves on the latest regulatory, funding and technical assistance available to local contacts and then get this information out to the local contacts and aquaponic associations as efficiently as possible. We want the aquaponics industry to succeed and grow in Wisconsin.

The next conference call is scheduled **for April 28, 2014 from 11am - Noon**
Conference call in number: (630) 424-2356, Passcode 6550444#

Erin D. Livesey - Dartmouth College
Feasibility of Commercial Aquaponics Survey

Erin is writing a thesis with the Environmental Studies Department examining the feasibility of commercial aquaponic operations in the United States. In my research, I am hoping to establish connections with several prominent operations throughout the US, and get a better understanding of the challenges that they face both in financial and sustainable endeavors. Ideally I will be able to create some in-depth case studies of operations across the US.

Erin described commercial aquaponics farms as those farms that “sell their fish and produce to the public”. Those interested in taking Erin’s survey can reach her at: Erin.D.Livesey.15@dartmouth.edu

Beth Gehred - Slow Money Wisconsin
2015 Showcase

Beth announced the 2015 Showcase:

Friday, May 1, 2015 Showcase

Applications now open for businesses wishing to be considered for the 2015 Business and Investors Showcase.

Food and Farm Business Entrepreneurs get a chance to get one-on-one pitch and financing coaching from Wisconsin's leading food business coaches. This is an the opportunity to tell your business story to a room full of people in a position to offer investment or other assistance. Completing [Application](#) takes under an hour, with a chance to upload business and/or project plans. The event is taking place on Friday, May 1 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison, Wisconsin. [Application](#) deadline: 11 pm, Sunday, February 15, 2014. There is no charge to apply.

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Thursday, April 30, 2015 Reception

A relaxed reception with smart food and conversation in a location in downtown Madison will be held on April 30, 2015. All Showcase entrepreneurs will be in attendance and will enjoy telling you about their businesses or farms in an informal atmosphere. New this year will be a chance to learn about various local investment strategies you can deploy whether you have \$100 or \$100,000,000 in investment capacity. We'll hear from people who have invested locally, and from those who have benefited from this nurture capital. Come at 5:30 and stay as long as you wish. Doors close around 8 pm.

<http://www.slowmoneywisconsin.org/2015-showcase.html>

Beth can be contacted at:

Beth Gehred

Program Coordinator

Slow Money Wisconsin

Town and Country RC&D

POB 333

Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549

920-541-3208

beth@slowmoneywisconsin.org

Mike Bandli – DATCP

Mobile Fish Processing Update

Mike Bandli explained that DATCP Food Safety staff and Wisconsin Aquaculture Association contacts Ron Johnson and Jim Held have been discussing two mobile fish processing options: a mobile piece of equipment that would be transported to each licensed processing location and a licensed mobile vehicle with the processing unit that would drive from farm to farm. Option one is preferred by DATCP staff at this time. DATCP Food Safety staff has stated they are open to working with fish farmers on either of these options.

Kentucky's mobile fish processing units were paid for and operated by a non-profit group including: State of Kentucky, Heifer International, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. Health, Colleges, USDA, and others. Their unit was built and outfitted with approximately \$100,000. It is unknown if a "for profit" company could build and outfit a similar unit in Wisconsin. Mike provide the following references and resources for the call participants:

White Paper on Food Fish Processing Regulations (State of WI) – Note: This is just a starting point (still does not replace building a relationship with DATCP Food Safety.) (PDFs attached)

DATCP Food Safety:

WI Food Safety Laws: http://datcp.wi.gov/Food/Wisconsin_Food_Safety_Laws/index.aspx

Meat Program overview - http://datcp.wi.gov/Food/Meat_Safety/index.aspx Direct Marketing Meat & Poultry: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Food/pdf/DirectMktingMeatPoultry05.28.14.pdf> (For reference – remember poultry is part of "meat program"; seafood & fish are part of "food program")

Food Safety fact Sheets: http://datcp.wi.gov/Food/Food_Code_Fact_Sheets/index.aspx

Local Food Marketing Guide – This tool may be helpful as well:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Food_Marketing_Guide/index.aspx

KY Notes: Ron Johnson's follow-up notes with Angela Caporelli: Word Document attached.

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Mike can be contacted at:

Mike Bandli

Agricultural Development

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

(608)224-5136

Mike.Bandli@wisconsin.gov

Angela M Shaw, PhD - Iowa State University

Assistant Professor: Food Science and Human Nutrition - Food Safety Extension

Angela explained that Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) challenges for aquaponic farms include:

Food Safety Plan (P-1, P-2)

Animals/Wildlife, Manure (1-8, 1-22)

Fish validation of Disease

Water testing

Validation of Food Safety Plan

Water Policy

Microbial Assessment

Establishment of Corrective Actions

Establishment of Personal Training and Hygiene Program

Angela told us there are 2 aquaponic farms in Iowa that are GAP certified. Angela serves as a pre-GAP preparation assistance to the farms, which costs about \$500. A Crop Block Grant helps pay for this service. The GAP auditors come from Chicago and Kansas City. The farms have been GAP certified in order to sell to large grocery chains like Whole Foods, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. One college has asked for food from GAP certified suppliers. The GAP inspections are costing approximately \$2000 per inspection.

The one aquaponics farm in Wisconsin that has GAP certification is Future Farms.

<http://afuturefarm.com/announcements/future-farm-gets-usda-gap-certification>

You can contact Angela for additional information at:

Angela M Shaw, PhD

Iowa State University

Assistant Professor

Food Science and Human Nutrition, Food Safety Extension

2577 Food Science Building, Ames, IA 50011

Office phone: 515-294-0868

Email: angelaml@iastate.edu

Chris Hartleb – UW Stevens Point

UW-Stevens Point Aquaponics Webpage &

Innovation Center Update

Chris announced that the UW-Stevens Point Aquaponics webpage just went live yesterday and I wanted to share this with you, it is at www.uwsp.edu/aquaponics This has information regarding our Aquaponic

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courses and education, the new Aquaponics Innovation Center building, and will be providing aquaponic resources to the public.

The Aquaponics Innovation Center Grand Opening is April 23rd-25th, 2015. The Aquaponics Innovation Center (AIC) is located in Montello, WI at the business campus of Nelson and Pade, Inc.®, the private industry partner for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's aquaponics programs. The AIC covers 4,800 sq.ft. of Nelson and Pade, Inc. ®'s new, state-of-the-art controlled environment greenhouse facility. Construction of the whole facility began in August, 2014 and was completed in December, 2014. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cols-ap/aquaponics/Pages/Aquaponic-Innovation-Center-.aspx>

Jeremiah Robinson – Frosty Fish

Flow-through Trout Farm Research Grant

Rushing Waters Trout Farm, Palmyra, WI asked Jeremiah Robinson - Frosty Fish to apply for a grant to design a sustainable proto type fish farm. The grant would be awarded in March 2015. The research would test four (4) flow types:

- Control: Normally stocked aquaponics system, kept at 70 degF. Shows standard plant growth for a comparison aquaponic / hydroponic system.
- Full Flow: Grow plants on standard flow through effluent, diverting water from the end of the raceways as it is currently discharged.
- Partial Recirculation: Use effluent from new fingerling tank in a flow-through aquaponics scenario, to see if more-concentrated effluent grows better plants.
- Solids Only: Remove solids from the raceways using some kind of solids-concentration technique such as a solids sucking device in the raceways, radial flow filter, geo-tube, or some combination. Remineralize these solids, and run an aquaponics system off this.

Jeremiah can be contacted at:

Jeremiah Robinson, PE

Design Engineer

E-mail: jr@frostyfish.com

Cell (608) 616-0463

www.frostyfish.com

James Godsil & Jesse Blom – Sweetwater Foundation

Activity Updates

Godsil & Blom gave the call participants updates on:

- Agroecology Tours at <http://www.milwaukeerenaissance.com/MilwaukeeRenaissance/AgroecologyWorkLearnTours>
- UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture is helping to design an aquaponics unit that families can put in their basements and grow vegetables for a family of four. Emmanuel Pratt, Chicago State University is helping with this project.
- In April 2015, Eric Maundu from Kijani Grows will be visiting MSOE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sweetwater Foundation will help organize a meet and greet event with Eric. <http://afritorial.com/xtreme-farming-kenyan-pioneers-urban-aquaponics/>

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Chris Lilek

Wisconsin DNR – SBS

Chris shared Nelson and Pade's news that 8 more commercial aquaponics farm unit will be constructed in 2015. <http://aquaponics.com/page/commercial-systems>

Chris can be contacted at:

Christine F Lilek CPG, PG
Agribusiness Sector Development Specialist
Sustainable Business Support Section
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53022
(920) 387-7898
Christine.Lilek@wisconsin.gov

NEXT CALL: April 28, 2015 from 11am - Noon

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